American Legion and IDES to recognize BraveHearts

The American Legion is recognizing Braveheart for its work with veterans and we would like to invite you to this presentation and a demonstration of the amazing work they are doing.

Where: Braveheart, 4950 Rte. 173, Poplar Grove, IL

When: Wednesday, September 5, 11 a.m.

Background: From 2002 and for almost 16 years, BraveHearts Therapeutic Riding & Educational Center has provided equine-assisted activities and therapies with teams of expert staff, dedicated volunteers and therapy horses at multiple safe and caring facilities.

BraveHearts is a Premier Accredited Center at both locations (Harvard & Poplar Grove) and is a member of the American Hippotherapy Association has been providing services to veterans and others in need imploring a unique method of therapy.

In addition to serving children and adults, BraveHearts provides innovative services to meet the needs of our military veterans and their families. By utilizing a faculty of national experts, BraveHearts is a center of excellence within the therapeutic industry through its unique efforts in programming, education and research.

Veterans travel from 21 states to receive the services provided.

Only 7.7% of all funds raised go to Administrative cost and only 7.4% for fundraising expenses Typically, on an annual average basis they assist over 400 veterans along with assisting their family’s members, as well.

They have been assisting veterans coming from Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago, other VA facilities, to those in the local community.

BraveHearts offers, at no charge, horseback riding only for veterans and their families with over 13,000 sessions and over 1100 veteran family sessions Onsite lodging for a getaway for the veteran and/or their family member(s) to get away for a few days or up to a week. Four counselors on site therapist offer care and treatment.

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Last year, BraveHearts served over 750 Veterans suffering with PTSD and TBI. New programs started including Trail to Zero, a 20-Mile Ride in New York city to raise awareness for veteran’s suicide, Cowboy Camp and English style riding as a second language. Other events include to serve veterans and the local community include a military horseback drill team and various other events. What does this mean to the veterans? As a testimony out of 179 volunteers 34 are veterans (19%) serving at these two facilities – Harvard and Poplar Grove. One of which is geared specifically for veterans and their families. Local DAV, VFW, American Legion and other local Chapters and Post refer members to BraveHearts.

The number of veterans served went from 726 to 750 veterans in 2018, which is a 9.7% Increase from the previous year.

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